

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-56 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer).

57 (previously presented): A substrate coated with an essentially water-free composition, wherein said composition comprises a superabsorbent polymer that absorbs greater than 100 times its weight in water in combination with a compound, wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant, synthetic lubricant, grease, or solid lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

58 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant or synthetic lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains an additive which comprises a detergent or a dispersant.

59 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said superabsorbent polymer is neutralized or cross-linked, and is based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

60 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 58 wherein said superabsorbent polymer is neutralized or cross-linked, and is based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

61 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum oil, an organic ester, or a glycol, and combinations thereof.

62 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said substrate comprises a cable.

63 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said substrate comprises a wire.

64 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

65 (previously presented): A method of protecting a substrate from the affects of water or water migration comprising coating said substrate with an essentially water-free composition, wherein said composition comprises a superabsorbent polymer that absorbs greater than 100 times its weight in water in combination with a compound, wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant, synthetic lubricant, grease, or solid lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

66 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant or synthetic lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains an additive which comprises a detergent or a dispersant.

67 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said superabsorbent polymer is neutralized or cross-linked, and is based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

68 (previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said superabsorbent polymer is neutralized or cross-linked, and is based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

69 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum oil, an organic ester, or a glycol, and combinations thereof.

70 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said substrate comprises a cable.

71 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said substrate comprises a wire.

72 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

73 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein the particle size of the superabsorbent polymer comprises from about less than 0.5 microns to about 300 microns.

74 (new): The substrate of any one of claims 57-63 and 73 wherein said composition is a product produced by the process of combining said superabsorbent polymer with said compound.

75 (new): The method of any one of claims 65-71 wherein said composition is a product produced by the process of combining said superabsorbent polymer with said compound.